

# Scandal Linking Liza Minelli To Gorton and CIA Is Denied

CANBERRA, Australia (AP) —The Australian House of Representatives voted today not to investigate scandal charges involving Prime Minister John Gorton and actress-singer Liza Minelli.

One of the charges was that the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency paid \$15,000 for an article about Gorton which Miss Minelli had written and then sold it to African, European and American publications.

Defending himself in the House the 57-year-old Gorton said he had been the subject of a scurrilous whispering campaign. "I am glad it has now been brought into the open," he declared.

Gorton said he was satisfied with his own conduct and that Miss Minelli, the 22-year-old daughter of singer Judy Garland, had said the whole thing was "a pack of lies."

An opposition member, Albert James, told the House that an Australian gossip sheet called



PRIME MINISTER GORTON



LIZA MINNELLI

Things I Hear had reported that Miss Minelli, who visited the country last year, had written the article for the British magazine Private Eye in which she "recounted what she claims

were her experiences with the leading Australian political figure."

James said the article allegedly dealt with incidents at a Syd-

ney night club, in Bali during a visit by Gorton to Indonesia and in Canberra last Christmas.

The gossip sheet, which is published by Sydney journalist Frank Browne, said Private Eye sold the world rights of the article to the CIA.

James called for an investigation by the Parliamentary Privileges Committee.

The vote against the investigation was 75 to 34 and followed party lines, with one member of the Labor opposition voting with the government.

The prime minister was supported by the Labor party leader in the Senate, Lionel Murphy, who told the upper house: "I accept without reservation the prime minister's statement that his conduct has been entirely proper."

Labor opposition leader Edward G. Whitlam said Gorton had not given a complete denial of the allegations.

Gorton begins a visit to the United States and Canada March 29 and meets April 1-2 with President Nixon.